

19 OCT 2001

PTO 1390 Page 1 of 1

US Dept. of Commerce Pat. & Trademark Office

Attorney's Docket No.

22037

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 USC 371

US. Application No. (if known)

10/070351

INTERNATIONAL APP. NO.
PCT/EP00/03489

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
18 April 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
19 April 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

IMPULSE SOUND TRANSDUCER WITH AN ELEMENTARY BLOCK MADE OF PIEZOELECTRIC MATERIAL

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Wieslaw BICZ

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EU/US) the following .

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 USC 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 USC 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 USC 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 USC 317(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 USC 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Patent Office.
6. ☒ A translation of the International application into English.
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 USC 371(c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 USC 371(c)(3).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 USC 371(c)(4).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 USC 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern documents or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An Assignment for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items of information.
Drawing (2 sheets)

10/070351

PCT/EP00/03489

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17. The following fees are submitted:

Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):

Search report has been prepared by the EPO or JP \$890.00

Int'l prel. exam. fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) \$710.00

No int'l prel. exam. fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)

but int'l search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) \$740.00

Neither int'l prel. exam fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor

int'l search fee (37 CFR 1.455(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$1040.00

Intl. prel. exam. fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)

and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Art. 33(2-4) \$100.00

ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

\$1,040

Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

CLAIMS

NO. FILED

NO. EXTRA

RATE

Total claims

5

0

\$18

\$0

Ind. claims

0

0

\$84

\$0

MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM(S) (if applicable) (see prel. amt.)

280

TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS

\$1,040

Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement
must also be filed (37 CFR 1.2, 1.27, 1.28)

\$520

SUBTOTAL

\$520

Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

TOTAL NATIONAL FEE

\$520

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The Assignment may be
accompanied by an appropriate PTO-1595 cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.39)

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED

Amt to be refunded

Amt to be
chargeda. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ to cover the above fees is enclosedb. ☐ Please charge my deposit account 18-2025 \$ to cover the above fees. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.c. ☒

Please charge the amount due to the credit card identified in the attached PTO-2038.

d. ☒ The commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit
account 18-2025. A copy of this sheet is enclosed

e. A PTO-2038 in the amount of \$ to cover recordal of the Assignment is enclosed

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive
(37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

Send all correspondence to:

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Herbert Dubno, Reg. No. 19,752

22037

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor	Wieslaw BICZ
Patent App.	Not known (US Nat'l phase of PCT/EP00/03489)
Filed	Concurrently herewith
For	IMPULSE SOUND TRANSDUCER WITH AN ELEMENTARY BLOCK MADE OF PIEZOELECTRIC MATERIAL
Art Unit	Not known

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
please amend as follows:

In the Claims:

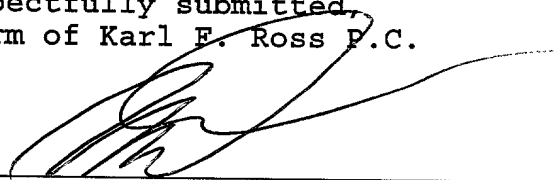
Claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2",

Claim 4, lines 1 and 2, delete "on or more of the preced-
ing claims", insert instead -- claim 1 --,

Claim 5, lines 1 and 2, delete "one or more of claims 1
to 4", insert instead -- claim 1--.

This preliminary amendment is submitted just to reduce claim charges.

Respectfully submitted,
The Firm of Karl F. Ross P.C.



By: Herbert Dubno, Reg. No. 19,752
Attorney for Applicant

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rg

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2/pst

Transl. of PCT/EP00/03489

[T R A N S L A T I O N]

PULSE-ULTRASOUND TRANSDUCER WITH AN ELEMENTARY BLOCK OF

PIEZOELECTRIC MATERIAL

5

The invention relates to a pulse-sound transducer in the ultrasonic range. Such transducers are necessary in various fields technology in which short pulses are necessary. As a first case there is defectoscopy which includes sonography in the field of medicine.

10

The classical construction of such a transducer comprises a plane parallel plate of piezoelectric material which has on the two broad upper and lower sides respective electrodes whereby the plate can be polarized perpendicularly to the sides which are covered with electrodes. This plate is cemented to a block which damps the ultrasonic waves and has an acoustic impedance which is matched to the piezo plate. On the output side so-called matching layers are provided which afford reflection-free sound transfer and with pulse operation can produce very short sound pulses.

15

20 Transducers of this type belong to the known state of the art and a good discussion thereof and the problems arising therewith, for

example found in the book of M. G. Silk, Ultrasonic Transducers for Nondestructive Testing, Adam Hilger 1984.

Transducers of the known type of construction require expensive technology and thus are costly where they are required to generate good pulses effectively. Furthermore, the known transducers are relatively thick (at least 5 mm) and it is thus practically impossible to fabricate them for frequencies greater than 30 MHz. In addition, with pulsed excitation, only relatively long pulses can be generated which have drawbacks for measurement purposes. A further disadvantage is that they are not suitable for automatic mass production and also in that their parameters cannot be maintained within a narrow tolerance range.

Relatively good pulse shapes and also good reproducibility require transducers with lens-shaped elemental blocks which, however, produce only weak signals and these are significantly less sensitive in comparison to classical transducers. The same drawbacks have also been found for transducers which, because of special electrode configurations or inhomogeneous polarization of the piezo element, are capable of supplying relatively short signals.

The object which is laid out for the present invention is to provide a sound transducer for the ultrasonic range which can emit strong and short pulses, has a high sensitivity and which can guarantee reproducibility of the parameters in serial production. The object which has been set out is achieved accordance to the

invention with a pulse sound transducer containing the features characterizing part of claim 1.

5 The block which is T-shaped in longitudinal section, can have a column shape, cone shape or pyramid shape with round, oval or polygonal cross section and is so dimensioned that a damping of the waves is effected which move within the interior of the column so as to prevent a reflection within the interior of the column at the free column wall and thus the emission of an after oscillation which can result in deterioration of the pulse quality. As a
10 result additional damping means can be avoided. In addition the production of the transducer as a mass produced article is greatly facilitated by eliminating the additional damping means and the adhesive connection thereto. Essential for the invention is the formation of shoulders on the block to form the elementary cell.
15 This shaping of the block and the selected proportions and the arrangement of the electrodes, which are disposed on the output surface and around the block above the shoulder, are decisive for the base oscillation which is thus of three dimensional configuration.

20 It is also important that, as a consequence of the construction of the elementary cell in accordance with the invention, that the electric field is closed within the elementary cell and thus such that a stronger pulse can be sent out. The base polarization direction of the piezo material should be
25 perpendicular to the foot surface and thus the output surface for the pulses of the T-shaped elementary cell.

It has been found that it is especially advantageous for the following dimensional ratio be maintained, namely, $a/b/h = 1/4-6/10$, where a is the thickness of the shoulder, b the diameter of the block or its width and h is the height of the elementary cell. The size ratio of the sound generating element, here the elementary cell, is of special significance for all sound wave generating construction as examples from the music world show. Thus the violin, the viola, the cello and the contrabass generate different highs and lows of tonality based upon their different size proportions. It has also been found that an additional radial polarization by the application of a high voltage can improve the strength of the pulses. The highest probability is that this polarization utilizes the additional piezo effect advantageously.

Further details of the invention are explained on the basis of the accompanying drawing. That shows:

FIG. 1 a perspective illustration of the elementary cell,

FIG. 2 the shape of the pulse,

FIG. 3 the electric field within the elementary cell.

FIG. 1 shows the elementary cell in a perspective illustration. It is comprised of a block 2 and a shoulder 3 formed thereon. The shoulder projects outwardly beyond the block. In the illustrated configuration, the elementary cell 1 is of triangular shape in section and it can however also assume another shape. It can be round, oval and polygonal with the upwardly-turned tip running into a cone or pyramid. The one electrode 4 is arranged on

the planar output surface for the pulses while the other electrode 5 extends laterally along the block 2. It is not required to have the electrode 5 extend around the entire block or that the lower electrode cover the entire lower surface.

5 The thickness of the shoulder has been designated with a , the height of the block with b , the width of the block with c and the total height of the elementary cell with h . The active region of the elementary cell is found in the lower region of the block and within the shoulder. As has already been indicated, the
10 proportions of the elementary cell are of essential significance. It has been shown that the thickness of the shoulder in proportion to the height of the block of piezo electric material to the total height, thus $a/b/h$ should be held in the ratio $1/4-6/10$ to produce optimal results. Optimal results means that strong and short
15 pulses are emitted and the transducer has a high sensitivity. In FIG. 2 the pulse curve achieved with the sound transducer of the invention has been shown.

 The T shape of the elementary cell 1 according to the invention is of very great significance since it enables enclosure
20 of the electric field between the electrodes within the elementary cell. In FIG. 3 an image of the electric field in the elementary cell is reproduced. As can be seen from it, this electric field runs only within the elementary cell of the transducer. This shape enables, in addition, a volume oscillation and thus of waves which
25 are directed upwardly (see FIG. 1) and thus so damps the surface

travelling counter to the pulse output surface that they no longer can be reflected at the upper end of the elementary cell.

Of greater significance are the proportions of the elementary cells already indicated. The ratio of the individual parts of the elementary cell have already been given. The height of the cell h should be at least 10 times greater than the height of the shoulder a . The actual dimensions can, for example, have the following values: $a = 0.2$ mm, $b = 1$ mm and $h = 2$ mm. Such a transducer produces pulses which are 20 ns long and has as a receiver, a band width of 4 - 35 MHz.

With the transducer according to the invention with the mentioned proportions, the ultrasonic surface which travel upwardly in the drawing are totally damped. The complete transducer must not be thicker than 2 mm. It is thus possible to make it significantly thinner when the elementary cell is so constructed that it forms a point tapered upwardly which particularly advantageously damps the waves travelling in this direction.

It is also significant that with the selected dimensional size proportions, the components of the electric field which are parallel to the foot of the elementary cell 1 and thus the transverse beam of the T are comparable with the components perpendicular thereto.

As a consequence of this fact, all piezo coefficients of the piezo material play a role of substantially the same significance. The result is a volume oscillation of the active region of the elementary cell which because of its shape and the

targeted application of the electrodes gives rise to a supplemental polarization in the radial direction. The supplemental polarization, following fabrication of the transducer or the elementary cell results from the application of a relatively high voltage at its electrodes. This type of oscillation apparently enables a better utilization of the piezo effect and also influences the damping of the rearwardly traveling waves. The characteristics of the transducer according to the invention are thus determined only if the characteristics of the selected piezo electric material and the precision of the shape of the elementary cell, i.e. in other words the transducer according to the invention can be manufactured with a very good reproducibility. Transducers of this type can contain one or more elementary cells which can be connected together.

The transducer according to the invention is capable of producing very short and very strong pulses which cannot be achieved with other transducer construction. The amplitude of the produced pulse is at least twice as great as with classical transducers. Its sensitivity is comparable with classical constructions. The transducer according to the invention can be either produced with significantly lower cost and over all can be used wherever classical transducer types can be employed.

In summary it can be said that with the transducer according to the invention by comparison to other nonclassical construction, a significant increase in the effectivity can be achieved since no losses arise in the electric field externally and

all undesired sound waves are subjected to a practically complete damping without the use of a large ceramic thickness or another damping body. By comparison to the classical constructions, the pulse length is shorter and the amplitude is greater. None of the known constructions can be fabricated more easily.

5

Patent Claims

1 1. A pulse sound transducer for the ultrasonic range for
2 use either as a transmitter or as a receiver with an elementary
3 block composed of piezoelectric material,

4 characterized in that,

5 the height of the elementary block composed of
6 piezoelectric material of the transducer is greater than its width
7 and the block at the output end for the pulse has a shoulder so
8 formed thereon that a smooth output surface is formed for the sound
9 wave, and in longitudinal sections has a T-shape, whereby the base
10 polarization runs perpendicularly to the output surface and the one
11 electrode is provided on the output surface while the other runs
12 above the shoulder on the block.

1 2. The pulse sound transducer according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that,

3 the block is configured as a round or polygonal column,
4 cone or pyramid and the shoulder is matched thereto
5 correspondingly.

1 3. The pulse sound transducer according to claim 1 or 2,
2 characterized in that,

3 the proportions of the elemental sell are selected as
4 follows:

5 $a/b/h = 1/4-6/10$, whereby a is the thickness of the
6 shoulder, b the diameter or the width of the block and h the height
7 of the total cell.

1 4. The pulse sound transducer according to one or more
2 of the preceding claims,

3 characterized in that,

4 the elementary cell after shaping has an additional
5 radial polarization by the application of a high voltage.

1 5. The pulse sound transducer according to one or more
2 of claims 1 to 4,

3 characterized in that,

4 the transducer is assembled from a plurality of
5 elementary cells, whereby the cells have electrodes around the
6 columns or the like longitudinal structures, although the totality
7 of the cells has an electrode on the total output surface for the
8 pulses.

(51) Internationale Patentklassifikation ⁷ : B06B 1/06	A1	(11) Internationale Veröffentlichungsnummer: WO 00/62946 (43) Internationales Veröffentlichungsdatum: 26. Oktober 2000 (26.10.00)
(21) Internationales Aktenzeichen: PCT/EP00/03489 (22) Internationales Anmeldedatum: 18. April 2000 (18.04.00) (30) Prioritätsdaten: 199 17 429.6 19. April 1999 (19.04.99) DE (71) Anmelder (für alle Bestimmungsstaaten ausser US): SONIDENT ANSTALT [L/LI]; Landstrasse 25, FL-9490 Vaduz (LI). (72) Erfinder; und (75) Erfinder/Anmelder (nur für US): WIESLAW, Bicz [PL/PL]; ul. Siewierska 9/6, PL-52-011 Wroclaw (PL). (74) Anwalt: FUNCK-HARTHERZ, A.; Hoherodskopfstrasse 41-43, D-60435 Frankfurt am Main (DE).		(81) Bestimmungsstaaten: CA, JP, PL, US, europäisches Patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Veröffentlicht <i>Mit internationalem Recherchenbericht.</i> <i>Vor Ablauf der für Änderungen der Ansprüche zugelassenen</i> <i>Frist; Veröffentlichung wird wiederholt falls Änderungen</i> <i>eintreffen.</i>

(54) Title: IMPULSE SOUND TRANSDUCER WITH AN ELEMENTARY BLOCK MADE OF PIEZOELECTRIC MATERIAL

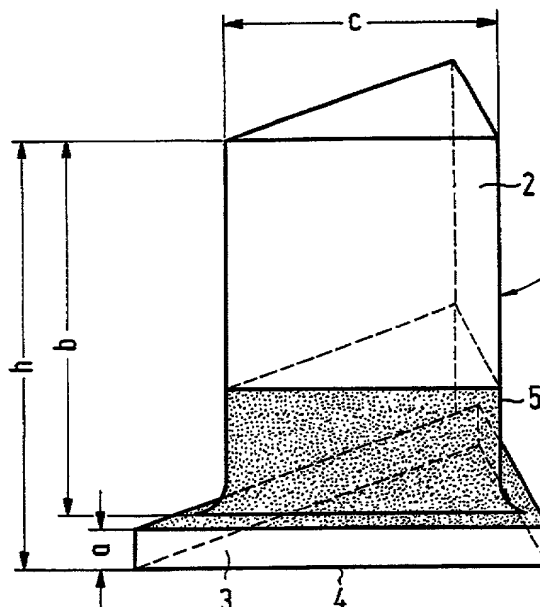
(54) Bezeichnung: IMPULS-ULTRASCHALLWANDLER MIT EINEM ELEMENTARBLOCK AUS PIEZOELEKTRISCHEM MATERIAL

(57) Abstract

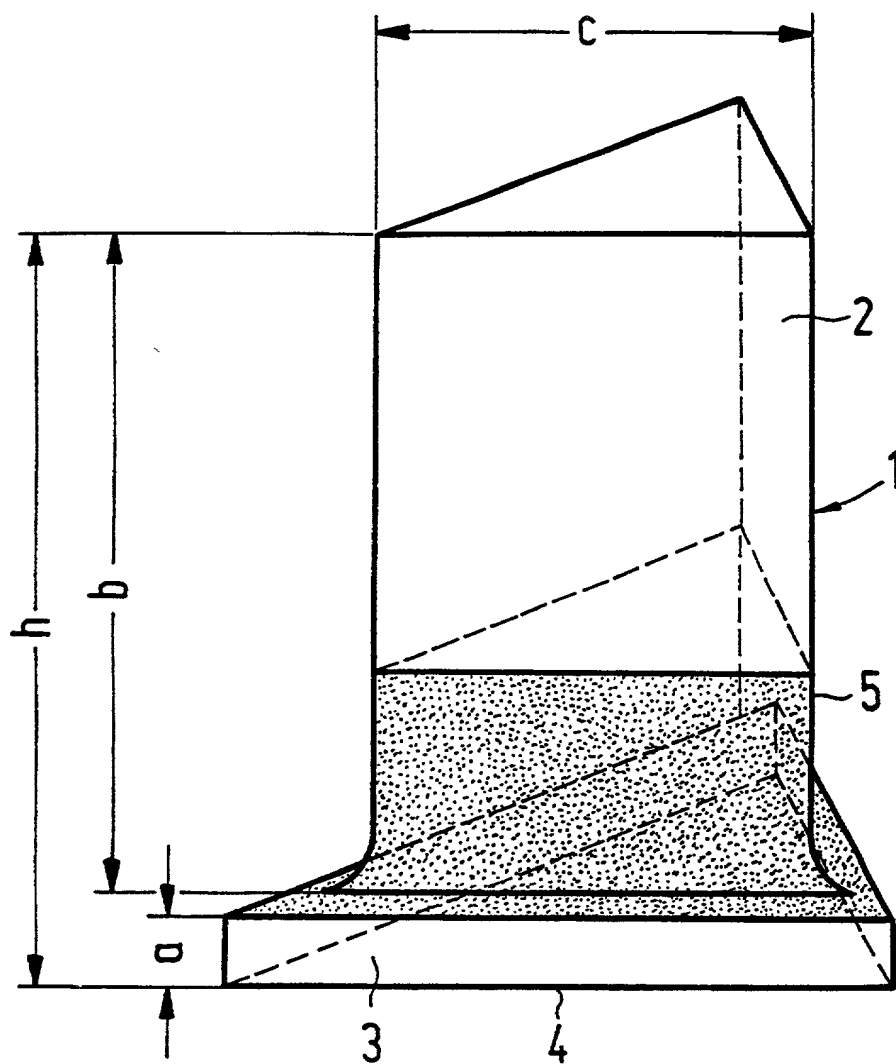
The invention relates to an impulse sound traducer for the ultrasonic range. Transducers in prior art require complicated and expensive technology in order to really generate good impulses. The invention aims at providing a sound transducer for the ultrasonic range, which transmits strong and short impulses, has high sensitivity and ensures repeatability of parameters. This is achieved by a sound transducer for the ultrasonic range that is used both as a transmitter and as a receiver and is comprised of an elementary block made of piezoelectric material, wherein the height of the elementary blocks consisting of piezoelectric material is bigger than its width and the block on the output end of the impulse has a formed edge so that the elementary block has a T-shape in the longitudinal section, wherein one electrode is provided on the outlet surface while the other electrode extends above the edge on the block.

(57) Zusammenfassung

Die Erfindung bezieht sich auf einen Impulsschallwandler im Ultraschallbereich. Wandler der bekannten Bauart verlangen aufwendige und damit kostspielige Technologie, falls sie wirklich gut Impulse generieren sollen. Aufgabe der Erfindung ist, einen Schallwandler für den Ultraschallbereich zu schaffen, der starke und kurze Impulse aussendet, eine große Empfindlichkeit aufweist und eine Wiederholbarkeit der Parameter garantiert. Diese Aufgabe wird durch einen Schallwandler für den Ultraschallbereich zum Einsatz sowohl als Sender wie auch als Empfänger mit einem Elementarblock aus piezokeramischem Material erreicht, wobei die Höhe des aus piezoelektrischem Material bestehenden Elementarblocks größer ist als dessen Breite und der Block am Austrittsende der Impulse einen angeformten Bund aufweist, so daß der Elementarblock im Längsschnitt eine T-Form aufweist, wobei die eine Elektrode auf der Austrittsfläche vorgesehen ist, während die andere oberhalb des Bundes an dem Block verläuft.

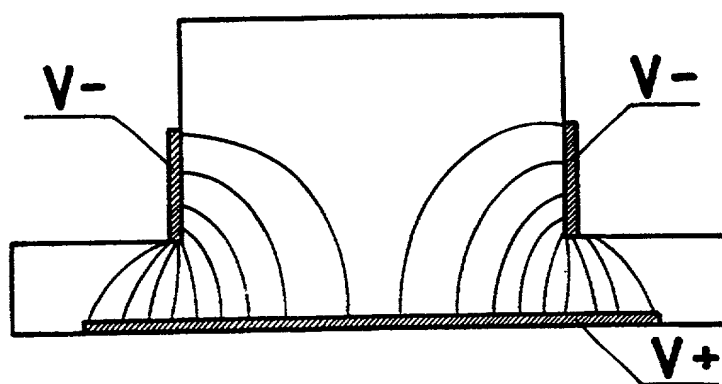
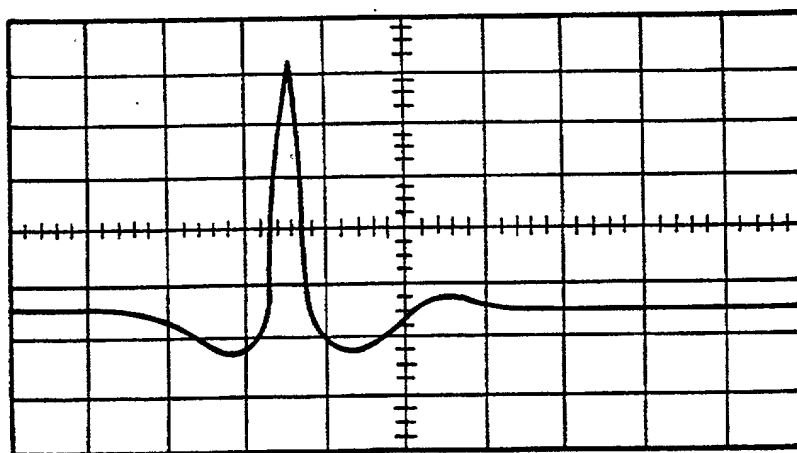


1/1

**FIG.1**

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

2/2

FIG.3FIG.2

22037

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: My residence, post-office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,
I believe that I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

IMPULSE SOUND TRANSDUCER WITH AN ELEMENTARY BLOCK MADE OF PIEZOELECTRIC MATERIAL

the specification of which was filed on 18 April 2000 as PCT application PCT/EP00/03489.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 USC 119 of any foreign applications for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign applications for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Applications

Country	Number	Filing Date	Priority claimed
	12917428.8	19 April 1999	Yes

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 USC 120 of the United States Application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States Application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Serial Number	Filing Date	Status
PCT/EP00/03489	18 April 2000	Pending

I hereby appoint as attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business connected therewith: Herbert Dahne, Reg. 19,752; Jonathan Myers, Reg. 26,963; Andrew Wilford, Reg. 26,597 and each of them individually.

Address all correspondence to:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor:

Wiesław Bicz

Inventor's signature

Bicz W.

Date:

17.10.2001

Residence: Wrocław, Poland

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Post-office Address: ul. Ślesimska 9/8, PL-52-011 Wrocław, Poland

1-00